

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for evaluating packets and frames in a wireless communication system having a burst oriented channel, and a corresponding rate indicator channel, the method comprising:
 - monitoring the rate indicator channel; and
 - determining the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel~~[[and]]~~
 - ~~determining the validity of a frame by analyzing the packet if the packet in the frame is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing a subpacket ID and a payload if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.~~
- 2-6 (Canceled)
7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 49 wherein analyzing the packet further comprises
 - decoding information on the burst oriented data transmission channel using the packet if the sub-packet ID and payload are not expected.
8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 48 wherein analyzing the packet comprises
 - comparing a sub-packet ID and a payload size of the packet to sub-packet IDs and payload sizes of previous packets.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim ~~[[1]]~~ 48 wherein analyzing the packet further comprises

comparing the packet with an expected packet type if the packet is a zero-rate packet.

10. (Original) The method of claim 9 wherein analyzing the packet further comprises detecting energy on the burst oriented data channel if the packet matches the expected packet type.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[1]] 47 wherein determining the validity of a frame further comprises detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if there is no packet on the corresponding rate indicator channel and no packet was expected.

12. (Currently Amended) A system for evaluating packets and frames in a wireless communication system, comprising:

a base station; and

a mobile station coupled to the base station via a wireless communication link;

wherein the base station is configured to receive data from the mobile station on a plurality of reverse-link channels on the wireless communication link including a burst oriented channel, and a corresponding rate indicator channel; and

wherein the base station is configured to monitor the rate indicator channel and determine the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel ~~and determine the validity of a frame by analyzing the packet, if the packet in the frame is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing a subpacket ID and a payload if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.~~

13 – 17 (Canceled)

18. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[12]] 55 wherein the base station is further configured to analyze the packet by decoding information on the burst oriented data transmission channel using the packet if the sub-packet ID and payload are expected.

19. (Currently Amended) The system of claim [[12]] 54 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by comparing a sub-packet ID and a payload size of the packet

to sub-packet IDs and payload sizes of previous packets.

20. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 54 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by comparing the packet with an expected packet type if the packet is a zero-rate packet.

21. (Original) The system of claim 20 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if the packet matches the expected packet type.

22. (Currently Amended) The system of claim ~~[[12]]~~ 53 wherein the base station is further configured to determine the validity of a frame by detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if there is no packet on the corresponding rate indicator channel and no packet was expected.

23. (Currently Amended) A base station operable to communicate with a mobile station via a wireless communication channel, wherein the base station comprises:

a processing subsystem; and

a transceiver subsystem coupled to the processing subsystem;

wherein the transceiver subsystem is configured to receive signals on a plurality of reverse-link channels on the wireless communication link including a burst oriented channel, and a corresponding rate indicator channel; and

wherein the base station is configured to monitor the rate indicator channel and determine the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel ~~and determine the validity of a frame by analyzing the packet, if the packet in the frame is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing a subpacket ID and a payload if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.~~

24 – 28 (Canceled)

29. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim ~~[[23]]~~ 60 wherein the base station is further configured to analyze the packet by decoding information on the burst oriented data

transmission channel using the packet if the sub-packet ID and payload are expected.

30. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim [[23]] 59 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by comparing a sub-packet ID and a payload size of the packet to sub-packet IDs and payload sizes of previous packets.

31. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim [[23]] 59 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by comparing the packet with an expected packet type if the packet is a zero-rate packet.

32. (Original) The base station of claim 31 wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if the packet matches the expected packet type.

33. (Currently Amended) The base station of claim [[23]] 58 wherein the base station is further configured to determine the validity of a frame by detecting energy on the burst oriented channel if there is no packet on the corresponding rate indicator channel and no packet was expected.

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus operable to communicate with a mobile station via a wireless communication channel, wherein the base station comprises:

means for monitoring the rate indicator channel; and

means for determining the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel[[;]]~~and~~

~~means for determining the validity of a frame by analyzing the packet, if the packet in the frame is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing a subpacket ID and a payload if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.~~

35 – 38 (Canceled)

39. (Currently Amended) A non-transitory computer-readable storage medium including program code stored thereon, which when executed by a processor is for evaluating packets and frames in a wireless communication system having a burst oriented channel, and a corresponding rate indicator channel, comprising:

logic configured to monitor the rate indicator channel; and

logic configured to determine the presence of a packet on the rate indicator channel based on a likelihood generated by a maximum likelihood decoder that decodes the rate indicator channel; ~~and~~

~~logic configured to determine the validity of a frame by analyzing the packet, if the packet in the frame is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing a subpacket ID and a payload if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.~~

40 – 44 (Canceled)

45. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein determining the presence of a packet is performed at predetermined intervals.

46. (New) The method of claim 45, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.

47. (New) The method of claim 45, further comprising determining the validity of a frame.

48. (New) The method of claim 47, wherein determining the validity of a frame comprises analyzing the packet if the packet is detected.

49. (New) The method of claim 48, wherein analyzing the packet further comprises determining if the packet is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing a sub-packet ID and a payload if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.

50. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the packet does not include cyclical redundancy check (CRC) bits.

51. (New) The system of claim 12, wherein the presence of a packet is determined at predetermined intervals.
52. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.
53. (New) The system of claim 51, wherein the base station is configured to determine the validity of a frame.
54. (New) The system of claim 53, wherein the base station is configured to determine the validity of a frame by analyzing the packet if the packet is detected.
55. (New) The system of claim 54, wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by determining if the packet is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing a sub-packet ID and a payload if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.
56. (New) The base station of claim 23, wherein the presence of a packet is determined at predetermined intervals.
57. (New) The base station of claim 56, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.
58. (New) The base station of claim 56, wherein the base station is configured to determine the validity of a frame.
59. (New) The base station of claim 58, wherein the base station is configured to determine the validity of a frame by analyzing the packet if the packet is detected.
60. (New) The base station of claim 59, wherein the base station is configured to analyze the packet by determining if the packet is a zero-rate packet, and analyzing a sub-packet ID and a payload if the packet is not a zero-rate packet.

61. (New) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the means for determining determines the presence of a packet at predetermined intervals.
62. (New) The apparatus of claim 61, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.
63. (New) The apparatus of claim 61, further comprising means for determining the validity of a frame.
64. (New) The apparatus of claim 63, wherein the means for determining the validity of a frame comprises means for analyzing the packet if the packet is detected.
65. (New) The apparatus of claim 64, wherein the logic configured to determine determines the presence of a packet at predetermined intervals.
66. (New) The apparatus of claim 65, wherein the interval is a subframe interval.
67. (New) The apparatus of claim 65, further comprising logic configured to determine the validity of a frame.
68. (New) The apparatus of claim 67, wherein the logic configured to determine the validity of a frame comprises logic configured to analyze the packet if the packet is detected.
69. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the presence of the packet includes:
 comparing the likelihood with a threshold,
 wherein the determination as to whether the packet is present is based on the comparison.
70. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the determining the presence of the packet includes:
 identifying a codeword that is most likely to be present on the rate indicator channel,

wherein the likelihood corresponds to the likelihood that the most likely codeword is present on the rate indicator channel.

71. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the rate indicator channel is a discontinuous transmission channel.